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# Northwoods Journal

August 2006

Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

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## WOLF IDENTIFICATION

Most wolves have silvery gray-brown backs and sides that become darker on the neck shoulders and rump in the winter. Wolves can be distinguished from coyotes primarily by size. An adult wolf weighs 50-100 pounds, stands 2.5 feet tall at the back and appears to have a massive head due to the long hairy cheek patches that project out at their jaws. A large coyote weighs less than 30 lbs and has a much smaller head with a narrow face. The wolf tail is typically tipped in black. Its position is less indicative since they can be held out straight or down (but not curled up).



## HAVE A PROBLEM WOLF?

To receive compensation for wolf depredation of dogs or livestock, and to control problem wolves it is important that you report any suspected wolf depredation as soon as possible. Reports can be made 24 hours a day by calling the USDA Wildlife Services office in Rhinelander at 1-800-228-1368. Wildlife damage agents will let you know how to preserve the site and will investigate within 24 hours.



By Chuck Druckrey,  
Marinette Co. Land & Water Conservation

The plaintive howl of the wolf is a sound that's associated with wilderness and wild places. In fact, the wolf often represents endangered wildlife and the attempt to protect wild places. But that was not always the case. In the past, the howl of the wolf evoked fear. European fairy tales told of wolves preying on little children. As this country was settled, wolves killed livestock as farmers cleared the land and moved into the wolves' territory.

In Wisconsin, the history of the wolf is a familiar one. Eradication of the wolf was state policy and a bounty was offered until 1957 when the last known wolf pack disappeared. By 1960, the wolf was declared extinct in Wisconsin. It wasn't until 1973 that the wolf was given federal protection and by 1975 a lone pack had moved back into Western Wisconsin from Minnesota. Since then, the wolf has expanded its range to cover much of Northern Wisconsin. A population that numbered only 15 animals in 1985 has expanded to over 400 wolves in 2005.

With their steady eastward expansion it was only a matter of time before wolves reached Marinette County. Throughout the 1990's local wolf sightings were common as lone wolves wandered into the county. Then, in 2002, the DNR identified a breeding pack near the Dunbar Barrens. By last winter that number had grown and at least five wolf packs now call Marinette County home. According to WDNR wildlife biologist Aaron Buchholz, there were an estimated at 15 to 18 wolves in the county last winter and at least two of the packs showed breeding activity. Two of these wolves were radio collared to study territory and dispersal patterns. According to Buchholz, the number of wolves in Marinette County is likely to grow since there is still prime habitat that is not occupied by established packs. As the prime habitat is occupied, wolves will also expand into less suitable habitat, as has happened in other counties. This less suitable habitat is typically forested lands on the edge of increased human development, higher road

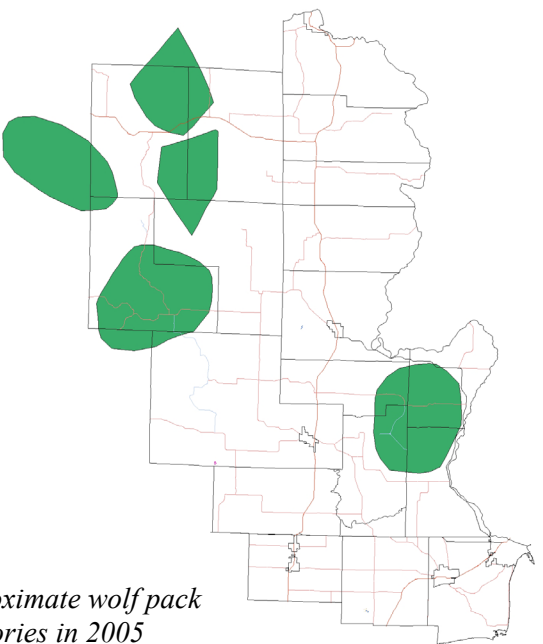
density and agricultural areas.

Wolf packs typically consist of a dominant breeding pair, surviving offspring from the previous year, and the current year's pups. According to Buchholz, pup mortality is high and the typical pack consists of four individuals. Each winter, yearling wolves disperse to seek a mate and set up their own territories. These dispersing wolves can travel hundreds of miles and are largely responsible for the reports of wolves getting hit by cars in urban areas far from suitable wolf habitat.

Wisconsin's 1999 Wolf Recovery Plan called for a self-sustaining population of 350 wolves statewide. Since that number has been exceeded, the DNR changed the official status of the wolf from threatened to protected. They are also working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove the wolf from the federal endangered list. Once de-listed, the DNR will not need federal permission to control problem wolves.

The return of the wolf to Marinette County is not without controversy. While most people no longer see the wolf as a direct threat to their lives, many still see them as a threat to their

*WOLVES, continued on next page*



Approximate wolf pack territories in 2005



*WOLVES continued*

pets or livestock, or as competition for game animals, particularly deer. While these fears are not unfounded, experience in Wisconsin and Minnesota has shown that wolf depredation and the impact of wolves on the deer herd is not the problem many had feared.

As large predators, wolves will prey on livestock. According to DNR reports from 2005, wolves preyed on livestock at 25 farms in Northern Wisconsin, killing at least 37 cows, horses and sheep. Wolves also killed 17 dogs and injured six more. While the horses and livestock are killed for food, dogs are attacked because of territorial aggression. Hunting dogs that wander into den areas or rendezvous sites are particularly at risk of attack as wolves aggressively defend their territory from all canid (dog) species. Wisconsin compensates owners for livestock and dogs killed by wolves. The DNR has the authority to trap and euthanize wolves that kill livestock or pets on private land. According to Buchholz, one confirmed livestock death in the late 1990's between Dunbar and Niagara, is the only verified case of wolf depredation on livestock or dogs in Marinette County.

Perhaps the most contentious issue of wolf recovery is their potential impact on the deer herd. Here it's important to keep things in perspective. Studies show that approximately 55% of a wolf's diet consists of deer. Beavers, rabbits, and other small mammals make up the balance of the their diet. The same study showed that the average wolf eats 15-18 deer each year. According to Buchholz, Marinette County has fewer beaver and more deer than in the study area, so locally wolves may prey more heavily on deer. Still, if each wolf in a pack of four killed 20 deer annually, that's only 80 deer per year. If the pack has a

## Landscaping with Native Trees & Shrubs

By Scott Reuss, UWEX Horticulture Agent

### River Birch (*Betula nigra*)

Birch trees are viewed by many people as one of the signs of being "up north," with many homeowners trying to recreate that feeling by placing them in their home landscapes. However, the paper birch that we think of in this manner is not at all adapted to being in a managed landscape. One very good alternative to the paper birch is the River Birch, *Betula nigra*, also known as the red birch.

River birch trees have many of the same aesthetic and wildlife benefits of the paper birch, but are more adaptable to our home landscapes, as well as being more pest-resistant. The river birch is a medium-sized tree, usually reaching around 40



feet in mature height. You will find both single-trunked specimens as well as multi-stemmed clumps of river birch.

One of the main attractions in the landscape is their beautiful bark. As with white birch, younger river birch trees have bark which peels in layers. However, instead of white, river birch bark colors range from orange-red to pink. As the bark matures, the larger trunk portions do become a normal fissured bark, but retaining a reddish hue. Twigs have vivid red bark throughout the year.

Wildlife will also utilize the river birch. Besides producing nesting cover for songbirds, their seeds are favored by pine siskins, song sparrows, and American tree sparrows. Some wildlife attraction you may or may not want, however. Deer will definitely browse on younger, lower twigs in the winter; and gypsy moth caterpillars will feed voraciously on the foliage. Thus, you may need to protect young trees from deer feeding in winter and manage gypsy moths as

necessary. Lastly, river birch do have some potential for infestations of the bronze birch borer and bronze leaf miner, but less likely than the paper birch.

True to their name, river birches are adapted to the soils found along rivers and streams. They prefer higher organic matter, moister soils, but are able to do relatively well in dry, well-drained soils, too. Thus, they fit into most of the landscape situations found in the Marinette County area. However, they will do better in cooler, shaded soils. If using as landscape trees in full-sun spots, mulching a ten-foot circle (or larger) around the trunk will assist the tree's root health. River birch is rated as a zone 4b hardiness, but will likely survive well throughout all of our area, especially if you mulch the rooting zone or they are in amongst other trees.

One caution in placement of river birch is that they do NOT tolerate alkaline soil. If you have soil with a pH of higher than 6.7, your river birches will likely develop iron chlorosis due to not being able to absorb enough iron. Thus, they are not a good choice in such soils. If you already have an established tree and they are developing the chlorosis (generalized leaf yellowing), you can apply sulfur to the soil to alleviate the issue. For assistance in figuring out how much sulfur to use, any insect management issues, or for other horticultural questions, contact Scott or Linda at the Marinette County UW-Extension office, 715-732-7510 or toll-free at 1-877-884-4408.



## Northwoods Journal

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*Northwoods Journal* focuses on various outdoor recreation opportunities and local environmental topics to inform readers about natural resource use, management, and recreation in Marinette County.

### Published in cooperation by:

- ▶ Marinette County Land Information Department, Land & Water Conservation Division
- ▶ Marinette County Parks & Outdoor Recreation Department
- ▶ University of Wisconsin-Extension

*UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA. To ensure equal access, please make requests for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible prior to the scheduled program. If you need this material in another format, please contact the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510.*

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Check us out on the web at:

[www.marinettecounty.com/lw\\_home.htm](http://www.marinettecounty.com/lw_home.htm)

territory of 70 square miles that's slightly more than one deer killed per square mile. At these levels, wolves will kill far fewer than hunters or vehicle collisions. In 2005, hunters harvested three to four deer per square mile in parts of Marinette County where wolves are found. The DNR also estimates that in Northern Wisconsin, due to their numbers, coyotes and bears kill more deer than wolves.

Locally wolf activity may impact deer density near their core areas. When asked if wolves may cause deer to leave an area, Buchholz said that's highly unlikely. Studies show that deer are very faithful to their home ranges and typically will not move due to predation. The experience in Minnesota further shows that deer and wolves can coexist. Minnesota supports nearly 3,000 wolves, still has one of the largest deer herds in the nation, and is second in Boone and Crocket trophy deer entries.

## THE OFFICIAL 2006-2007 MARINETTE COUNTY PLAT BOOK



Available August 1<sup>st</sup>

\$20 (plus postage if mailed)

Land Information Office  
Marinette County Courthouse  
1926 Hall Avenue, Marinette, WI

For more information or to order,  
call 715-732-7535





# HIT THE TRAIL

Trails in Marinette County



## MORGAN PARK SCENIC WALKING TRAILS

By Erik Aleson, Marinette County Parks

Morgan County Park is located on Timms Lake in the Town of Niagara. This 160-acre park provides the second largest campground within the Marinette County Parks System. It is one of two developed campgrounds that has electricity at all 32 campsites and also has a group campsite available. The park also has a swimming beach on Timms Lake, playground, lodge, lake and stream fishing, & a boat landing.

But one of the best-hidden secrets of Morgan Park is the Scenic Walking Trail System. The Marinette County Parks & Outdoor Recreation Department maintains these wooded trails for hiking & walking. In 2003, this trail system was developed in an effort to provide the public with access to the wonderful views in Morgan Park. Now hikers can explore a 2.5-mile long trail system. It is broken down to two loops: the Pemene Trail (1.4 miles) and the High-View Trail (0.8 miles) and includes two additional trail spurs that lead hikers to scenic views.

The Morgan Park Scenic Walking Trails wind their way through the woods of the park to three scenic viewpoints on the property. These points provide great views of rock outcroppings and spots overlooking Timms Lake and the County Forest. The trails are well maintained and excellent for hiking and walking. Two trailheads provide easy access and signs are strategically located to help mark the trails. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on these trails.



Loon Bay Overlook

Trailhead #1 begins at the beach. From there, hikers ascend a small slope to Loon Bay Overlook. This site provides a great view of Timms Lake. From here, you can choose between taking a shorter loop on the High-View Trail or follow the Pemene Trail.

If you choose the longer loop on Pemene, you'll be rewarded by hiking past two scenic views. The first is a spur trail that descends a slope to the North Branch of the Pemebonwon River. Here you can look across the river and view Pemene Cliff. Returning to the main trail, you will follow the park boundary south to another spur that leads to a great view of the Marinette County Forest, called Eastern Overlook. The Pemene Trail returns near the developed part of Morgan Park and joins up with the High-View Trail near a bog. From this point you can either follow the trail back to the beach area where you began or take a short spur up into the campground where Trailhead #2 is located.

The High-View Trail basically cuts this loop in half as it follows a high ridge top through the center of the park. There are some really nice birds-eye views of Timms Lake again from up above the Loon Bay Overlook and also a good view of the lowland bog down below on the other side of the ridge.

To drive to the Morgan Park Scenic Walking Trails, follow US Highway 141 to Pembine, and then turn east on County Highway R (Kremlin Road). Follow County R for 6 miles, then turn north on Timms Lake Road for 1 mile. The entrance to Morgan Park will be on the left. Follow the park entrance road until it ends at the beach parking lot. You can access Trailhead #1 at the far end of the swimming beach area.

All vehicles require a day use parks entrance sticker. The cost is \$3.00 per vehicle per day. One Day Use sticker can be used at all Marinette County Parks the day it's purchased. Stickers are to be purchased at the self-registration pay station when entering the park. A \$12.00 (per vehicle) Marinette County Parks Annual Vehicle Sticker may be purchased at the Parks Office in the courthouse or various businesses in the County, which is valid at all Marinette County Parks for that year. Morgan Park opens May 1<sup>st</sup> each spring and closes in the fall after deer season in late November. For more info on Morgan Park and a map of the trails, go to:

[www.marinettecounty.com/parks.htm#Morgan](http://www.marinettecounty.com/parks.htm#Morgan)

## HARMONY ARBORETUM PRAIRIE WALK

Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Prairies once covered two million acres of Wisconsin. As Europeans settled in Wisconsin, they converted the treeless prairies into crop fields and learned to control the sweep of wildfires. Fire keeps forest plants from taking over and allows the soil to warm up quickly, making the prairie plants grow back faster. Without it, invading trees and shrubs gradually turn grasslands into woodlands. Today, less than 12,000 scattered acres of prairie exist in Wisconsin. As grasslands are lost, so are the animals that live there. In order to protect and maintain the biodiversity of prairie ecosystems, special restoration projects and plantings like the one at Harmony Arboretum can give grasslands a second chance.

During the program, county staff will talk about the restored prairie. You can learn exactly what a prairie is, why and how people restore prairies today, and how to identify different kinds of prairie plants. Come and take in some of nature's beauty. This is a free program.

Harmony Arboretum is located seven miles west of Marinette on Hwy 64 and half a mile south on County Hwy E.



## New guides to the Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail

Travel and viewing guides to the best birding and wildlife viewing spots in Northern Wisconsin are now available free in print and online.

The richly colored guides to the Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail -- Lake Superior Northwoods and Mississippi and Chippewa Rivers Regions -- detail over 150 stops in 31 counties. These are two of five region-specific guides that will direct travelers through these remarkable sites. Next to come off the press will be the Central Sands Prairies followed by the Lake Michigan and Southern Savanna regions.

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism is distributing the free guides through its Web site <http://travelwisconsin.com> or by calling 1-800-432-8747. The guides are also available online at:

[www.wisconsinbirds.org/trail/maps.htm](http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/trail/maps.htm).

The Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail is a joint project of the Department of Natural Resources Endangered Resources Program, Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the Department of Tourism.



## Come Visit Us at the County Fair

One of the features of this year's Marinette County Fair, running August 24-27 at the fairgrounds in Wausaukee, is the Education Tent. The Education Tent is co-sponsored by the Marinette County UW-Extension and Land & Water Conservation Departments and gives all fair-goers the opportunity to learn about many different topics. The focus for this year's tent is household safety and efficiency, along with new 4-H projects for youth to experience.

The Education Tent is located directly across from the main Exhibit Building and Fair Office. Staff will be present in the tent from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and until 5 p.m. on Sunday. There is definitely something for people of all ages in this year's Education Tent. You can learn about how to conduct a household or farmstead safety inspection, bring a sample of your water to have it tested for its nitrate level, and learn about food safety.

There are always games and activities under way within the tent, with prizes for those who are able to make their way through our quiz board. If you have any questions about UW-Extension or Land & Water Conservation programming, stop by the Education Tent, or call UW-Extension at 715-732-7510 and Land & Water Conservation at 715-732-7780.



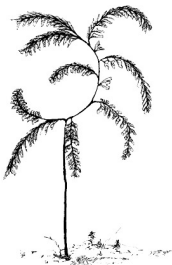
# Nature's Almanac

## August 7

Few wildflowers grow in the deep shade of midsummer woods, but shade-tolerant ferns do well there. Ostrich fern, lady fern, interrupted fern, and bracken all flourish in the rich soil of deciduous forests. Perhaps the best-known fern, the maidenhair, is also one of the most attractive.

In shady woods, often at the edge of swamps or on rocky hillsides, the maidenhair fern thrives. Its single stem branches into two fronds of circular or semicircular blades. This branching growth pattern, which gives the fern its common name, makes it grow out more than up. Even under ideal conditions, it does not grow more than 20 inches.

Numerous fan-shaped small pinnae (leaflets), notched on one side and smooth on the other, are less than an inch long. Only one to five sori (spore containers) are borne on the underside of these fertile pinnae. Extensive rootstocks creep underground. Like most ferns, maidenhair is a perennial, surviving the winter in its roots. An established one can last many years.



## August 17

August days are strangely silent. With the nesting season over, songbirds no longer declare their territories, and treetop songs cease. But when trees become silent, meadows come alive. Buzzes and clicks from grasses and wildflowers tell us that late summer is breeding time for katydids, a kind of grasshopper. Although their song is not as melodious as the songs produced by avian vocal cords, katydids sing for the same reasons that birds do, and as is the case with birds, the male of the species is the songster.

Katydid, who do most of their calling on warm afternoons and evenings, rub rasping organs near their legs and wings to produce sounds, a method called stridulation. Bush or meadow katydids tirelessly click and buzz nearly all day; angle-wing katydids creak in the evenings; while cone-head katydids “chi-chi-chi” through the afternoons and evenings.

While other grasshoppers have short antennae, katydids have long ones – often as long as their body. Most are green and blend in with meadow grasses and leaves.

## August 25

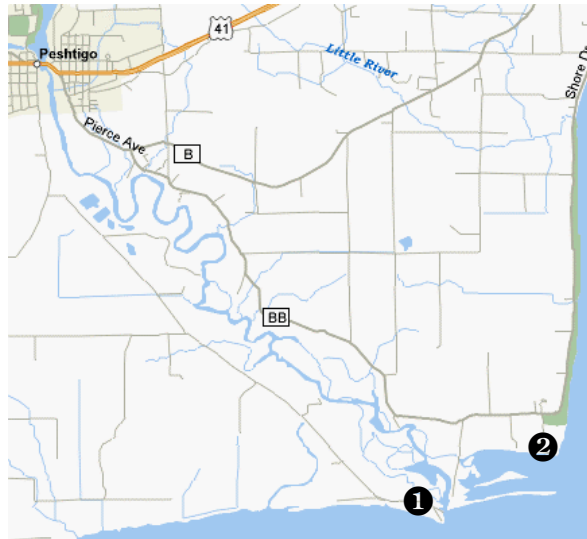
In the spring, ponds echoed with the songs of mating frogs; on May evenings as many as five kinds called at once. Since then, the frogs have left and ponds are silent. There are some exceptions to this rule, however: now in August, spring peepers and gray tree frogs begin calling again. Exactly why they call in late summer is unknown, but on August afternoons, they peep from trees as though spring has returned. No mating or even attempted mating takes place at this time, and calls emanate from the safety and seclusion of trees instead of ponds.

Besides calling, these frogs are feeding in the trees and bushes. It is not unusual to see the little brown peeper with an X on its back in our shrubs. In late summer, gray tree frogs that feed, call, and hide among the leaves are green. The young are more likely to be green, with the gray suit reserved for adults sitting on bark or buildings. Suction cups on their toes allow frogs to hold on to leaves, but they also affix themselves to glass. Indoor lights attract insects to windows, and gray tree frogs gather to hunt on this vertical, transparent plane.

From, “Backyard Almanac,” by Larry Weber  
Illustrations by Judy Gibbs

## Birding by the Bay

Its location on Green Bay makes the Peshtigo/Marinette/Menominee Area a great place to observe birds year round. The coastal beaches and estuaries create tracts of habitat much needed by migrating and resident shorebirds, waterfowl, birds of prey, and songbirds.



### Peshtigo

#### 1. Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area (West)

This State of Wisconsin property comprises more than 4,000 acres of forest and marsh, is bisected by the Peshtigo River and includes more than four miles of frontage on Green Bay. Many marsh birds nest here including: ducks, rails, marsh and sedge wrens, bittern, sandhill cranes, bald eagles and ospreys. The area is best explored by canoe but many areas are accessible by walking and many species may be viewed from launch sites. Traveling W. Front Street in Peshtigo to Harbor Road gives access the western section.

#### 2. Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area (East)

This area includes many side roads along County Highway BB. Coming from the east, turn onto Pond Road. The entire area after the black-topped road is public land managed by the Department of Natural Resources and has many diversified habitats for excellent bird observations. Alternatively, continue along County Highway BB and turn at the sign for the Wildlife Area and the boat landing.

### Marinette

#### 3. City of Marinette Nature Walk

This city-owned 40-acre conservation area has a one-half mile loop that begins along Bay Shore Street, north of Edwin Street, and extends into a lowland wooded marsh. The trail parallels several drainage ditches and ends back at Bay Shore Street. In spring it is a good site for migrating passerines. Summer residents include typical marsh birds.

#### 4. Seagull Bar Natural Area

Seagull Bar is a system of sand ridges and low dunes in Green Bay just south of the Menominee River mouth and adjacent to Red Arrow City Park. The sand spit shelters a lagoon of shallow water with mud flats and emergent vegetation, which changes from year to year according to Green Bay water levels. During the spring and fall, thousands of migrating birds, especially shorebirds, waterfowl, gulls, terns, and warblers, can be observed on the shore and in the shallows. Approximately 200 bird species have been recorded from this site.

#### 5. Menekaunee Walkway

This paved walkway on the mouth of the Menominee River and along the shores of Green Bay is lined with shrubs, willows, boxelder, balm, and cottonwood trees. Expect to see many shorebirds, gulls, terns, cormorants, ducks, woodpeckers, and in spring look for warblers and blue-gray gnatcatchers. Check to see what ducks are on the small pond just off the walkway. Along the river there are large piles of sand, in which many of the bank swallows nest. In winter, you may see a snowy owl. The walk begins on Ogden Street by the river or from Red Arrow Park.

### Menominee, MI

#### 6. Tourist Park, Harbor Drive and Lighthouse Pier

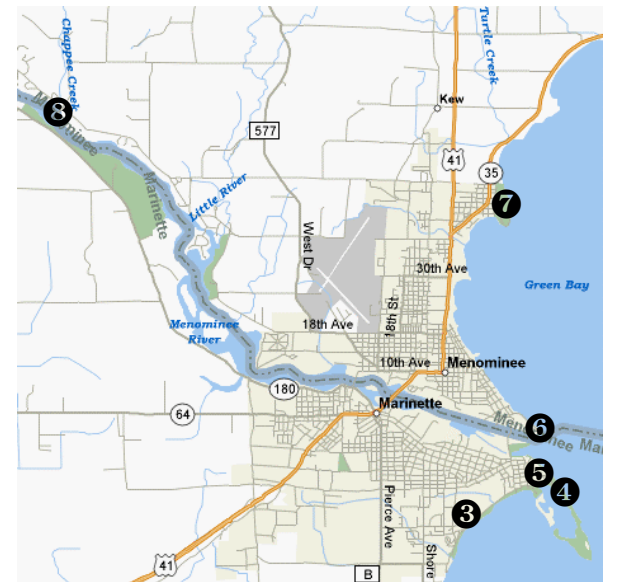
In Menominee, turn east off 1<sup>st</sup> Street on Harbor Drive next to the Credit Union Office to access Tourist Park, a good viewing spot for migrating shorebirds and water birds. Continuing along Harbor Drive to Lighthouse Pier Walkway, expect to spot gulls, terns and water birds. Grebes and loons are seen in migration here, while in early winter, snowy owl, kestrel and peregrine falcon are often seen in the cottonwoods along Harbor Drive.

#### 7. Henes Park

This Menominee city park is a unique elevated glacial till point on Green Bay, with a mixture of forest, ponds and open sites. The park includes more than 20 undeveloped acres with improved trails winding through diverse habitat. Orchids, orioles and many other northern forest and shoreline species can be found in the park in addition to great birding opportunities during migration. Access is via Henes Park Drive off M-35, 5 blocks north of US 41.

#### 8. Chappee Rapids Learning Center

The Center is located on 11 acres on the Menominee River that includes old field successional habitat in the uplands and lowland deciduous forestlands along the river. This is a quiet site offering views of jays, bluebirds, bald eagles, Cooper's, osprey, broadwings, as well as good warbler viewing during migration. The Center is located approximately 5.5 miles north of Menominee on River Road. There is a small parking area at entrance and trail leading down to the river.





## Who You Gonna Call?

*Spotlighting natural resource and conservation professionals working in Marinette County so you know who to call with questions or concerns.*



**Greg Sevens**

Watershed Specialist

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

101 N Ogden Road

Peshtigo, WI

715-582-5013

[sevensg@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:sevensg@dnr.state.wi.us)

### What things do you do as part of your job?

I work both in the wastewater and water resources areas within the DNR so my position is a hybrid. I'm responsible for tracking the compliance of smaller industries in Oconto and Marinette Counties with their WPDES (wastewater) Permits. My activities may involve providing some technical assistance and possibly, as a last resort, initiating enforcement actions. I also work with water quality monitoring programs in lakes and flowing waters, the lake grants program, the aquatic plant management program and miscellaneous other surface water activities in Marinette County. I worked in water quality planning during the beginning of my almost 30 year career with the Wisconsin DNR. My educational background was in general and aquatic biology with an MS in interdepartmental biology from Michigan State University.

### How are Marinette County's lakes and streams monitored, and what are they monitored for? How are the data used?

There are various purposes and goals for monitoring the surface waters of the County. Some monitoring protocols are designed to track basic long-term trends of different parameters such as suspended solids, nutrient elements and bacteria. Three rivers where this monitoring is presently occurring are the Menominee, Peshtigo and Little Peshtigo

Rivers. The data can be used to determine if there is deterioration in water quality and can be used for future reference. The DNR is not currently conducting long-term monitoring for any lakes in the county; however, we have a program where citizen volunteers are monitoring lakes and submitting the data to us. The data can be used to establish baseline conditions and provide information that can alert us to a problem. We also have a baseline monitoring program, implemented throughout the state, including Marinette County, in which water quality, fishery, aquatic plant, and aquatic macro-invertebrate information is collected on random water bodies to determine water body health and to have a more current information base of various lakes and streams. Finally, we do monitoring when various special needs arise such as to develop discharge limits for a new discharger to a water body; when a spill or fish kill occurs; to determine if a water body's water quality classification is being impaired; or if a project has been successful to repair a degraded water body such as Bass Lake in the Town of Beaver.

The state is developing an Internet program where people can easily access water quality

and other types of information on a water body if needed for some purpose. This will make the data gathered by the DNR and its partners even more easily accessible for use in the future.

### How can citizens become involved in water monitoring activities?

The State of Wisconsin has two programs currently available to train and pay for citizens to do some basic monitoring in both lakes and streams. The citizen lake monitoring program has been in place since 1986 and there are many lakes in Wisconsin being monitored by citizens each year on a long-term basis. There are at least nine lakes being monitored by citizens in Marinette County at the present time. We also have developed a citizen stream monitoring program through which citizens can get involved in monitoring a stream in the county. This program has not been around as long, but it's growing each year with more volunteers. There are a few streams currently being monitored in Marinette County by citizen volunteers. Because of tighter budgets, the DNR will be looking for citizen partners and other organizations to help keep tabs on the pulse of our water resources.

## Where in Marinette County?

*Tell us where this picture was taken and you could win a prize!*



Send us a note including your name, address, and phone or go to [www.marinettecounty.com/lw\\_home.htm](http://www.marinettecounty.com/lw_home.htm) to give us your answer.

Any interesting facts about the subject are also welcome.

**Please respond by August 18, 2006**

Correct answers will be entered into a drawing to win a Harmony Arboretum tote bag and a birdhouse built and donated by the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders from Peshtigo Middle School.

### Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read the *Northwoods Journal* on the Web? Each of the four summer issues are posted monthly on the Marinette County website at [www.marinettecounty.com/lw\\_journal\\_home.htm](http://www.marinettecounty.com/lw_journal_home.htm)

We can even send you an E-mail reminder when each new issue is posted, and a direct link to the site. To set it up, contact Amanda at [akostner@marinettecounty.com](mailto:akostner@marinettecounty.com)

July's photo was kind of challenging, unless you knew the Village of Amberg like the back of your hand. Betty Hearty, a resident of Amberg, knew this building is located on County Road V. Looking close at the picture reveals the words "White Garage, Oct 1939." No entries had any other historical information about this building, but if you have any knowledge of it you would like to share with our readers, please feel free to write us.





## Marinette County Alert! Zebra Mussels found in Lake Noquebay

The Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Lake Noquebay. Reported by an angler in late June, the exotic invasive mussels were confirmed and warnings were posted at the boat landings. The mussels were most likely transported from the waters of Lake Michigan where they are abundant.

Zebra mussels multiply rapidly and deplete the food supply for native mussels and fish that feed on the microorganisms in the water. They also cause greater water clarity, leading to increased aquatic plant growth. Blue-green algae also increase, since the zebra mussels leave it alone and consume other algae. Originating from the Black and Caspian Seas in Russia and the Ukraine, zebra mussels showed up in Lake Erie in 1988.

## Help Prevent Aquatic Hitchhikers

So what can we do to keep zebra mussels, mudsnails and other aquatic invasives out of our lakes and flowages? By following simple procedures each time we leave the water, we can stop aquatic hitchhikers. Knowing which waters contain nuisance species is not as important as doing the procedure every time we leave any lake, river, or Great Lake coastal area.

- Remove all mud, plants, fish, and animals from equipment before transporting
- Eliminate all water from equipment before transporting
- Clean and dry anything that came in contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.) using hot water or salt water. Let dry for at least five days.
- Never release plants or animals into a different body of water from which they came.
- If you have snails, fish, or other animals in an aquarium and you no longer wish to care for them, do not release them in the wild. Try donating them to a school or nature center.

For further details about these tips, go to [www.protectyourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net).



## Invasive Species Profile: New Zealand Mudsnail

By Kendra Axness, UWEX Basin Educator

*Exotic species are plants and animals that spread into an ecosystem beyond their normal range. Exotic species can come from another watershed, state, country, or continent. Invasive species are plants and animals that, once established, take over an ecosystem because they are able to out-compete other species for habitat. Both native and exotic species can become invasive if the conditions are favorable for them.*

### What are New Zealand mudsnails?

They are tiny exotic, invasive snails that feed on dead and dying plant and animal material, algae and bacteria. This invader has been known to be in trout streams of the western U.S. since the mid 1980s. The snails were observed in Lake Ontario in 1991, and in Thunder Bay on the Canadian side of Lake Superior in 2001. They were found in the Duluth-Superior harbor by an ecological research team in fall 2005, marking the first sighting of the snails in Minnesota and Wisconsin waters. The snails are able to disrupt aquatic ecosystems because they are extremely prolific and have no natural predators in North America.

### Where are they from?

The snails are native to New Zealand, where a parasitic fluke controls the mudsnail population.

### Why are they a concern?

While the snails haven't been observed in inland lakes yet, they are of great concern because they are easily transported, they reproduce efficiently, and they have no known natural enemies in North America. They can tolerate a wide range of habitats like rivers, lakes, estuaries and reservoirs.

In some trout streams of the western U.S., the snails have replaced up to 95 percent of the native invertebrates. Mudsnail densities have reached up to 700,000 per square meter in some western U.S. rivers. Doug Jensen, exotic species information coordinator for Minnesota Sea Grant at the University of Minnesota – Duluth, compares this to having a half-million of the snails in your bathtub (Weekly Outdoor Notes, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, May 13, 2006). Scientists are concerned that the snail could out-compete native snail species, as well as crowd out other



native species like mayflies and caddisflies that provide food for native fish.

### How far have they spread?

The snails have invaded water bodies in Australia, Europe and North America. They were first found in the U.S. in the Snake River in Idaho in 1987, apparently after being introduced with stocked imported rainbow trout, and have since affected trout streams in many western states, including Wyoming, California, Oregon and Montana. The Great Lakes populations are believed to have been introduced separately from the western U.S. populations, probably through the ballast water of transoceanic ships. The snails have been observed in Lakes Ontario and Superior. They are not known to have spread to inland waters in the Great Lakes region.

### How do they spread?

The snails are easily transported because they are extremely small, and they can attach themselves to anything from floating leaves to wading anglers. Females can reproduce asexually by cloning themselves. One snail can produce hundreds of thousands of clones of itself in a year. They can close off their shells, allowing them to survive out of water for up to one week and even allowing them to survive passage through the digestive tracts of fish and birds.

### MORE MUDSNAIL INFORMATION

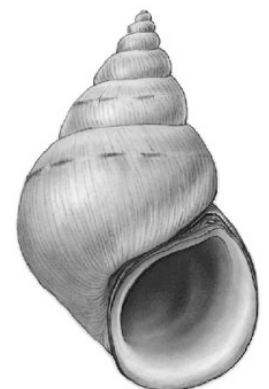
**Indiana Department of Natural Resources**  
[www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/fish/ais/NEW%20ZEALAND%20MUDSNAIL.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/fish/ais/NEW%20ZEALAND%20MUDSNAIL.pdf)

**Minnesota Environmental Partnership**  
[www.mepartnership.org/sites/GREATLAKES/sub\\_whatsnew.asp?new\\_id=1848](http://www.mepartnership.org/sites/GREATLAKES/sub_whatsnew.asp?new_id=1848)

## How to Identify the New Zealand Mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

- Spiral shaped shell
- Right-handed coiling pattern with about 5-7 whorls
- Small, usually about 5 mm (max 12 mm)
- Shell color dark gray, dark brown, to light brown

Identification is usually difficult – small snails like this have very few distinguishing characteristics and it is easy to confuse them with native species.







## Destination.... Marinette County Seagull Bar State Natural Area

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resource Specialist

When most visitors to Marinette County think of lakes and beaches, they picture the Peshtigo River flowages or Lake Noquebay. But Marinette County also has approximately 20 miles of shoreline on Green Bay. While most of this frontage is private and heavily developed, some of the most ecologically significant natural frontage is owned by the State of Wisconsin. One of these unique areas, Seagull Bar State Natural Area, is located right in the city of Marinette.

Seagull Bar State Natural area is a 1-1/2 mile long sand spit that juts out into Green Bay just south of the Menominee River mouth. It is unique because it contains the only true dune complex on Green Bay. The dunes have been created over time by sand that is deposited by wind and waves. While the natural area is listed as 120 acres in size, the extent of the dunes and the size of the natural area fluctuate greatly as water levels in the bay rise and fall. The dune complex contains a unique mix of wetland and beach plants that are adapted to living in a harsh environment that alternates between wind-driven waves and dry, baking sunshine. The plants also must deal with constantly shifting sands in the summer and crushing ice floes in the winter. On Seagull Bar you will find many plants and animals that are found nowhere else in Marinette County. Unfortunately, much of the native dune and wetland vegetation is being overtaken by common reed grass (*Phragmites australis*), an invasive species that has expanded rapidly during this period of low water on Green Bay.

The main dunes are found on the north side of Seagull Bar. Inside the beach and dunes, you will find a large wetland lagoon. During high water periods, this lagoon is primarily open water with abundant submersed and emergent plants typical of deep-water marshes. In the current low-water period, the lagoon is reduced in size and much of the shallow area has reverted to sedges, cattails and other wetland plants adapted to wet soil

conditions. You can find shallow pools that shifting sands cut off from the bay at the end of the point. According to WDNR wildlife biologist John Huff, these "inter-dune pools" are some of the most critical habitat on Seagull Bar. On the south side of Seagull Bar, the beach and dunes give way to wetlands with dense emergent vegetation.

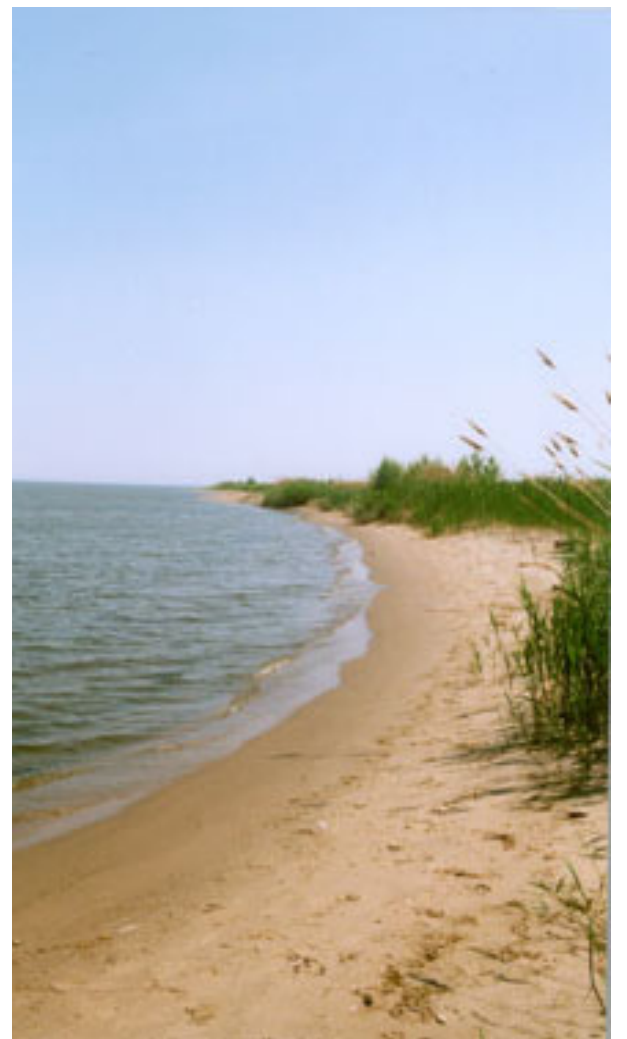
If you enjoy bird watching you need to check out Seagull Bar. The area is an important stopover point for all manner of migrating birds during the spring and fall migrations. From the smallest songbirds to the largest raptors, thousands stop to rest and feed here as they follow their traditional migration route along the shores of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Many shorebirds also nest in the natural area. The open sand bars and shallow pools provide ideal habitat for sandpipers, plovers and many others wading birds. According to the Wisconsin DNR, the federally endangered piping plover returned to Seagull Bar and attempted to nest in 2001. This was the first time in more than 50 years that the piping plover nested on Wisconsin's Lake Michigan shore. To protect these rare birds from disturbance, the DNR has closed parts of the natural area during the critical nesting period. Please respect any posted closures if you visit during the spring or early summer. Of course you will also find ducks and geese using the natural area throughout the year. The lagoon is an important breeding area for puddle ducks, and large flocks of diving ducks stop to rest and feed in the protected waters around the point.

### HOW TO GET THERE

To get to Seagull Bar head towards the river mouth in the City of Marinette then take Ogden Street to Leonard Street. Turn east on Leonard Street and drive ½ mile to Red Arrow Park. The natural area starts just beyond the mowed area in the park.

### BEAT THE HEAT

To get away from the summer heat, check out the sand beaches in and around the natural area. East of Red Arrow Park the beach extends for more than a mile into the natural area. If you visit this stretch of beach, please pack your trash out with you. In fact, do everyone a favor and pack out some of the trash that others may leave behind. Also, remember not to damage the fragile vegetation on the dunes. Red Arrow Park has a developed beach with changing rooms and showers. North and west of the park the beach continues another half mile to the Wisconsin pier, a 2000-foot long pier that channels the Menominee River into the deep waters of Green Bay. The beach and pier are open to public foot traffic.



### RED ARROW PARK

Red Arrow Park was established in 1925 and is named in honor of the soldiers of the Wisconsin National Guards 32<sup>nd</sup> "Red Arrow" Division. The unit was established in 1889 and fought honorably in battles in World Wars I and II. The park has two pavilions, a playground, a boat launch in the lagoon, beach, changing rooms with showers, and the Menekaunee Walkway, a paved walk that winds west along the Menominee River to the Menekaunee Bridge at Ogden Street.



## Area Events Calendar

- Aug 3-6 Waterfront Festival**  
Great Lakes Memorial Marina, Menominee, MI. Free. Entertainment, food, parade, fireworks, children's activities. 800-236-6681
- Aug 5 St. Hubert Shrine Picnic**  
Dun-Good Riders Club. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride to St. Hubert Shrine. 715-324-5737
- Aug 5 Pembine Community and American Legion Picnic**  
American Legion Park, Pembine. 11am – 9 pm. Horse pull, live music, kids games, crafts and raffles. \$1 lunch donation. 715-324-5237
- Aug 11-13 Thompson Antique & Classic Boat Rally**  
Nestegg Marina, Marinette. Antique boat show and sell/swap meet. Friday, Noon – 6 pm; Saturday, 9 am – 5 pm; Sunday, 9 am – Noon. 888-563-7834
- Aug 11-13 United States Canoe Association National Championship**  
Badger Park, Peshtigo. 715-735-9763
- Aug 12 M&M Antique Auto Club Car Show**  
Menominee, MI Historic Waterfront District, 8 am – 5 pm. Over 150 classic and antique cars. Free Admission. 906-863-3616
- Aug 12 Silver Cliff Fire & Rescue Picnic**  
County Road C and Parkway Road. Parade 10 am, picnic 11am – 7pm. Games, food, refreshments, DJ, face painting and raffle. 715-757-2333
- Aug 12 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Car, Truck & Bike Show**  
Curve Inn Resort, 10 am – 5 pm. Free Admission. Music, food, beverages and family fun. 715-757-2021
- Aug 17 Harmony Prairie Walk**  
Harmony Arboretum, County Road E. 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Free. Spend an evening in a demonstration prairie. Find out why and how people are restoring prairies today. Learn how to ID prairie plants. 715-732-7780
- Aug 24-27 Marinette County Fair**  
County Fairgrounds, Wausaukee. Carnival rides, music, vendors, food, fair entries. 715-927-7673

### Suggestion Box

What do you want to read about? Is there something that's not in this paper that you would like to see printed? Do you have topic ideas for a recurring column? Let us know how we can make this a better publication. Contact us at:

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Land & Water Conservation**

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(715) 732-7780

[akostner@marinettecounty.com](mailto:akostner@marinettecounty.com)

Or comment at our web page:

[www.marinettecounty.com/lw\\_home.htm](http://www.marinettecounty.com/lw_home.htm)

## FARMERS' MARKETS

*June – August*

**Amberg Flea & Farmers Market**

Occasional Saturdays

Amberg Antiques & Sweets, Hwy 141

**Crivitz Flea & Farmers Market**

Thursday mornings

Crivitz Village Hall Parking Lot

**Marinette Farmers Market**

Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday mornings  
starting at 7 a.m., Main Street Market,  
Main & Wells Streets, downtown Marinette



**Marinette, Wisconsin \* Menominee, Michigan**

[www.wishigan.org](http://www.wishigan.org)

We are a recreational club for those who love the outdoors, enjoy silent sports, and welcome the company of others. This group welcomes all kinds - the occasional nature hiker to the hardcore enthusiast.

Some of the club's favorite activities include hiking, camping, backpacking, paddling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Based out of the sister cities of Marinette, WI and Menominee, MI, we have endless outdoor recreation possibilities in the wilds of Michigan's U.P. and Northern Wisconsin.

Check out the website for some of the trips and activities scheduled for this month. Guests are welcome.

Marinette County  
**Harmony Arboretum**

$\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Hwy 64, on County E

**Extension** : 715-732-7510  
Land Information Office: 715-732-7780  
<http://www.marinettecounty.com>

## August 2006

*All programs are free unless otherwise stated.*

**Aug 8 Mid-season Perennial Care**  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Perennial flower management is a year-long adventure. Join Scott Reuss and experienced Master Gardeners for detailed ideas on how to maximize the health and beauty of your perennials.

**Aug 17 Prairie Walk**  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Spend an evening in the prairie. Learn exactly what a prairie is and why people are restoring them today. Natural resource professionals will be there to tell you why the Harmony Arboretum prairie project was started and how it's being managed. This is the time of year when prairie flowers bloom and grasses turn splendid colors.

## Spokes & Folks Bicycle Club



[www.spokesandfolks.com](http://www.spokesandfolks.com)

*Guests are welcome, helmets are required.  
Lights are recommended on some rides.*

**August 2006 Ride Schedule**  
(See website for more details)

**Luigi's Dinner Ride**

**August 24 5:30 p.m.**

Riders wishing to partake in dinner at Luigi's need to make reservations with the Lata's at 715-735-5961.

**Sunday Morning Breakfast Rides**  
**8:30 a.m.**

Bring your family, bring your appetite. Riders will ride to and from breakfast for a social ride great for all levels.

**Wednesday Fast Rides**  
**6:00 p.m.**

This is a super fast drop ride. Anyone can join, but if you aren't keeping up, you will be left behind, or dropped.

**Wednesday Easy-Pedal Rides**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The pace is easy, suitable for children, beginners and recreational riders. Rides are 12 – 16 miles long starting at Badger Park in Peshtigo.

